

AMENDMENT TO CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) An electrical receptacle for receiving conductive male prongs of a male ~~[[an external]]~~ plug comprising

a housing having a plurality of prong receiving openings,

terminal means mounted within said housing,

said terminal means including a plurality of electrical contact elements for creating an electrical connection with a respective prong inserted into said plurality of openings,

said plurality of electrical contacts being positioned at a location within said housing to contact the male plugs and establish an electrical connection with a male plug only when a respective prong is substantially fully inserted into said housing and to prevent an electrical connection to be established by not contacting the plurality of electrical contacts when a respective prong is only partially inserted into said housing,

said plurality of openings include at least one pair of spaced openings for receiving the spaced prongs of a respective male plug,

said plurality of electrical contacts each include a pair of spaced conductive elements for contacting a respective prong, and

said spaced conductive elements being a pair of generally U-shaped contact slots for receiving a respective prong of a male plug when fully inserted in said openings to create the electrical connection, said pair of U-shaped contact slots being integrally formed on a terminal member, and

said terminal means being a one piece stamping having said plurality of electrical contacts.

2 (cancelled)

3. (cancelled)

4. (cancelled)

5. (cancelled)

6. (cancelled)

7. (cancelled)

8. (cancelled)

9. (cancelled)

10. (original) The electrical receptacle according to Claim 1 further comprising locking means for releasably locking a prong of the male plug inserted into electrical contact with a respective one of said plurality of electrical contacts.

11. (currently amended) An electrical receptacle for receiving conductive male prongs of an external male plug comprising

a housing having a plurality of prong receiving openings,

terminal means mounted within said housing,

said terminal means including a plurality of electrical contact elements for creating an electrical connection with a respective prong inserted into said plurality of openings,

said plurality of electrical contacts being positioned within said housing to establish electrical with a male plug when a respective prong is substantially fully inserted into said housing and to prevent an electrical connection to be established when a respective prong is only partially inserted into said housing ,

said plurality of openings include at least one pair of spaced openings for receiving the spaced prongs of a respective male plug,

said plurality of electrical contacts each include a pair of spaced conductive elements for contacting a respective prong,

said spaced conductive elements being a pair of generally U-shaped contact slots for receiving a respective prong of a male plug when fully inserted in said openings, said pair of U-shaped contact slot being integrally formed on a terminal member.

locking means for releasably locking a prong of the male plug inserted into said electrical contact with a respective one of said plurality of electrical contacts.

[[The electrical receptacle according to Claim 10 wherein]] said locking means includes a locking element for engaging the prong of the male plug inserted for said electrical connection, said pair of generally U-shaped contact slots having a free

edge with a cut-out portion provide clearance between said contact slots and the prong holes.

12. (currently amended) The electrical receptacle according to Claim 10 [[11]] wherein said locking means includes an actuator for locking and releasing the male prong.

13. (original) The electrical receptacle according to Claim 12 wherein the actuator includes an external portion extending through said housing, said external portion providing external access to lock and release the male prong.

14. (original) The electrical receptacle according to Claim 13 wherein said locking means includes an open slot formed on said actuator for receiving said locking element, said open slot having a variable depth for locking and releasing said locking element from engagement with a male prong.

15. (currently amended) The electrical receptacle according to Claim 14 wherein said actuator is moveable along an axis relative to said housing lying generally parallel to the insert prong.

16. (currently amended) The electrical receptacle according to Claim 15 1 wherein said slot includes a longitudinal axis extending parallel to said axis.

17. (cancelled)

18. (cancelled)

19. (cancelled)

20. (cancelled)

21. (cancelled)

22. (cancelled)

23. (cancelled)

24. (previously amended) The electrical receptacle according to Claim 29 wherein said locking element is a ball.

25. (cancelled)

26. (cancelled)

27. (cancelled)

28. (previously amended) The electrical receptacle according to Claim 29 wherein said actuator element is resiliently biased in one direction.

29. (newly submitted) An electrical locking receptacle comprising
a housing having openings for receiving the inserted prongs with holes of at least one electrical male plug,

locking means operatively mounted in said housing for alternatively locking and releasing a male plug received in said housing,

a manually operated actuator member mounted for movement in opposite first and second directions for locking and releasing the male plug,

said actuator member having an externally accessible actuator element for causing said movement along a first axis,

said actuator member further having a block connected to said actuator element and being disposed laterally of said first axis,

said locking means including a locking element,

said block of said actuator member having [[a]] having at least one flat face formed with an open slot disposed adjacent an inserted prong, [[for]] said slot receiving said locking element for relative moveable contact therein parallel to said first axis, said slot having first and second sections, said first section having a shallower depth relative to said face than said second section, said locking element being positionable in said first section upon movement of said actuator member in said first direction for urging the locking element into the punched hole of one of the prongs of the male plug, said locking

element being positionable in said second section upon movement of said actuator member in said second direction.

30. (previously presented) The electrical receptacle according to Claim 29 wherein said first and second sections are interconnected by ramp means.

31. (currently amended) The electrical locking receptacle according to Claim 29 wherein said actuator member includes a pair of opposite flat faces, each of said opposite flat faces having said open slots therein, each of said open slots receiving a locking element, said locking elements being urged into the holes of the prongs for locking.

32. (previously submitted) The electrical locking receptacle according to Claim 31 wherein said actuator is moveable between the two prongs of a male plug.

33 (currently amended) An electrical locking receptacle comprising a housing having openings for receiving the inserted prongs with holes of at least one electrical male plug,

locking means operatively mounted in said housing for alternatively locking and releasing a male plug received in said housing,

a manually operated actuator member mounted for movement in opposite first and second directions for locking and releasing the male plug,

said actuator member having an externally accessible actuator element for causing said movement,

said locking means including a locking element,

said actuator member having a face formed with an open slot disposed adjacent an inserted prong for receiving said locking element, said slot having first and second sections, said first section having a shallower depth relative to said face than said second section, said locking element being positionable in said first section upon movement of said actuator member in said first direction for urging the locking element into the punched hole of one of the prongs of the male plug, said locking element being positionable in said second section upon movement of said actuator member in said second direction., [[The electrical locking receptacle according to Claim 29 wherein]] said actuator element having means to provide clearance between an inserted male plug and said actuator element for external accessibility , whereby said means to provide clearance is provided by said accessible actuator element being [[is]] oval in cross section.

34. (currently amended) The electrical locking receptacle according to Claim 33 [[29]] wherein said housing has openings for receiving the respective prongs of a pair of electrical male plugs, said housing including a pair of said actuator members mounted for movement adjacent the prongs of a respective male plug.

35. (cancelled)

36. (previously submitted) The electrical receptacle according to Claim 1 wherein said terminal includes a base connecting said pair of U-shaped contacts being bent at generally ninety degree angles to said base to receive a respective prong.

37. (currently amended) An electrical receptacle for receiving conductive male prongs of

an external plug comprising

a housing having a plurality of prong receiving openings,

terminal means mounted within said housing,

said terminal means including a plurality of electrical contact elements for creating an electrical connection with a respective prong inserted into said plurality of openings,

said plurality of electrical contacts being positioned within said housing to establish electrical with a male plug when a respective prong is substantially fully inserted into said housing and to prevent an electrical connection to be established when a respective prong is only partially inserted into said housing,

said plurality of openings include at least one pair of spaced openings for receiving the spaced prongs of a respective male plug,

said plurality of electrical contacts each include a pair of spaced conductive elements for contacting a respective prong, and

said spaced conductive elements being a pair of generally U-shaped contact slots for receiving a respective prong of a male plug when fully inserted in said openings said pair of U-shaped contact slot being integrally formed on a terminal member, and

[[The electrical receptacle according Claim 36 wherein]] a portion of each of said U-shaped contact slots include a bent over portion to increase strength.

38. (cancelled)

39. (new) The electrical receptacle according to Claim 1 wherein said terminal means being a one piece stamping having said plurality of electrical contacts and said terminal.